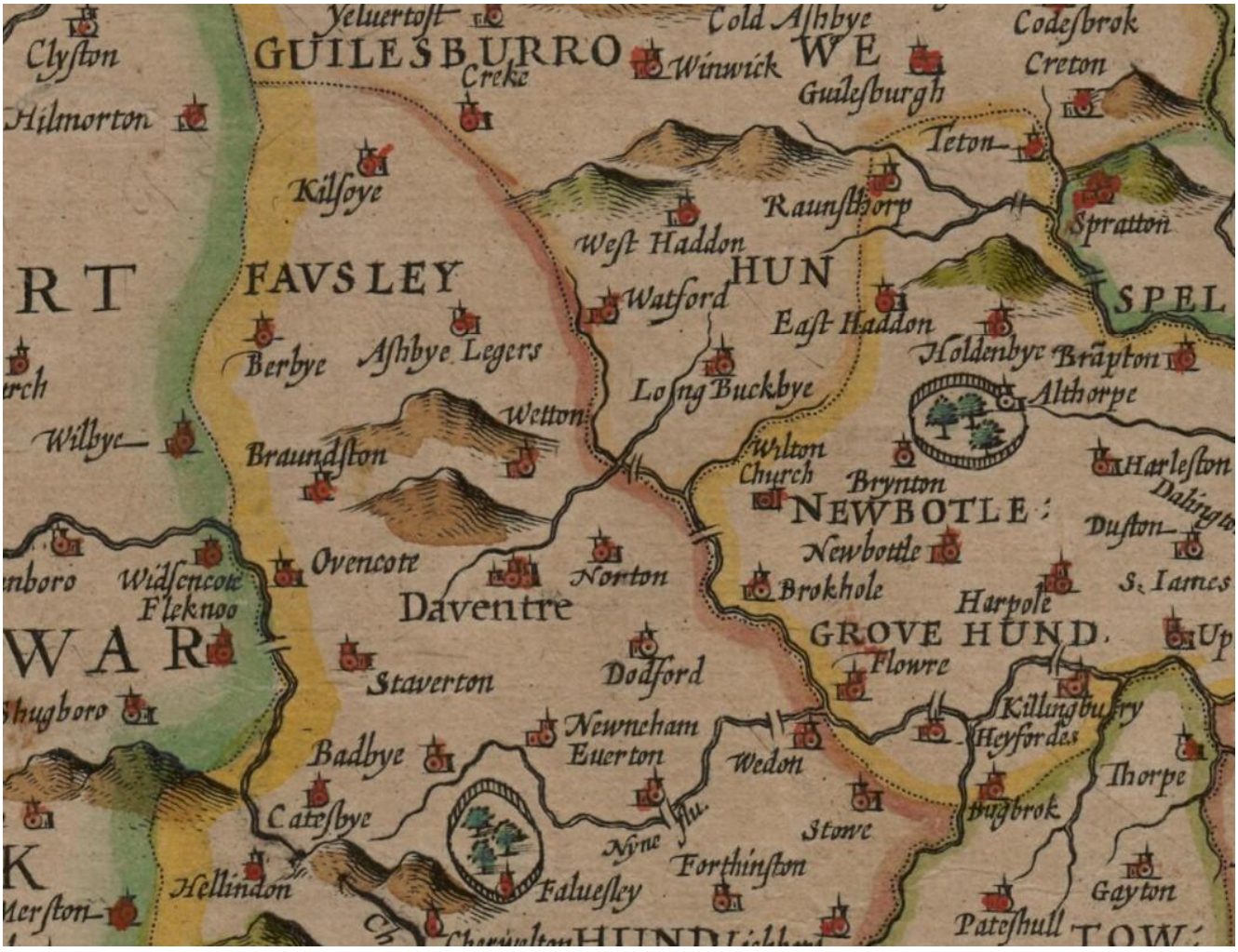
by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Alice Boyson of Winwick & Crick and her family

by Francis Howcutt



Hillmorton, Barby, Staverton, Gayton, Kislingbury, and Winwick
(anti-clockwise from top left on this extract from map by John Speed, 1610)[1]

[1] https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/PR-ATLAS-00002-00061-00001/46

Alice Boyson of Winwick & Crick and her family
by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Contents

	Page
Introduction	3
The Boyson surname	4
The Villages	4
John Boyson & Elizabeth Hynes: 5x great grandparents	5
Thomas Boyson & Elizabeth Flamell: 4x great grandparents	6
Richard Boyson & Sarah Harding: 3x great grandparents	7
John Boyson & Sarah Salsbury: 2x great grandparents	8
Richard Boyson & Elizabeth Bates: great grandparents	10
Edward Boyson & Alice Latham: grandparents	11
Edward Boyson & Sarah Smith: uncle and aunt	12
Thomas Boyson & Elizabeth Elmes: parents	12
Thomas Boyson & Hannah James: brother & sister-in-law	14
William Boyson & Ann Simmons Norton: brother & sister-in-law	15
Elizabeth Boyson: sister	15
Alice Boyson & William Crisp	16
Edward Boyson & Sarah Crisp: brother and sister-in-law	17
George Boyson & Mary Elms: brother & sister-in-law	17
John Boyson: brother	18
Finally	18
Appendix A: Descent of Alice Boyson from John Boyson	19
Appendix B: Will of Samuel Hynes, probate 1650	20
Appendix C: Will of Thomas Boyson, probate 1689	22
Appendix D: Will of Elizabeth Boyson, probate 1704	24
Appendix E: Quitclaim by Thomas Boyson, 1705	25
Appendix F: Will of Richard Boyson, probate 1717/8	27
Appendix G: Origins of Elizabeth Bates, wife of Richard Boyson	28

Alice Boyson of Winwick & Crick and her family
by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Introduction

This account is about the life, Boyson ancestry and close relatives of my 2x great grandmother Alice Boyson (1823-1856), who was born at Winwick, Northamptonshire and married William Crisp of Crick in 1843. Appendix A outlines her descent from John Boyson and Elizabeth Hynes who married at Staverton in 1627. The headings of sections about Alice's ancestors and siblings include their relationship to her.

It is not an exhaustive record of those with the Boyson surname who have lived in Northamptonshire, many if not all of whom were probably fairly close relatives. It sets out evidence that establishes the migration of the Boyson family from Staverton to Barby, Kislingbury, Gayton and Winwick in that order. There are two places called Winwick in Northamptonshire; the Boysons lived in the one that is three miles east of Crick.

Thank you to:

- The National Archives and Northamptonshire Archives for curating and making available parish registers, probate and other historical documents.
- Internet Archive, Cambridge University Library and Wikimedia Commons for making freely available online digitised versions of books, maps, pictures and other resources.
- A Vision of Britain Through Time, which freely provides a vast amount of historical material, much of which is copyright of the Great Britain Historical GIS Project and the University of Portsmouth.

The Internet links cited were checked on the date of this Introduction. If you find one that no longer works or its destination has changed for the worse, the Wayback Machine may be able to help you find the material that used to be there.[2]

Unless otherwise stated:

- When transcribing documents, the original spellings are kept. Where this is likely to assist navigation and understanding, such text has been arranged in paragraphs.
- Text included in the narrative that have been copied as they were written in original documents are shown within single inverted commas.
- Otherwise, the names of people and places are written in their modern form and obvious abbreviations used in documents are silently expanded.
- Numbers originally written in Roman figures are silently converted to Arabic.

Members of the Boyson family mentioned include ancestors of numerous individuals scattered across the world who are alive today.

Francis Howcutt
18 July 2026
francishowcutt@gmail.com

[2] https://web.archive.org/

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

The Boyson surname

The hearth tax lists for the year ending 25 March 1674 provide 22,565 records for Northamptonshire. They include the names of the vast majority of householders in the county at that time.[3] The index to the lists has the following numbers of entries for individuals recorded with Boyson or a similar surname:[4]

Surname	Number	Places
Boyson	2	Staverton, Upper Heyford
Bayson	1	Barby
Bewson	1	Rushden
Beeson	1	Brackley St Peter
Bawson	1	Aldwinkle
Bason	5	Potterspury (x3), Cosgrove, Wicken

Spelling variations that have been found include Boyson, Byson, Boilson and Boayeson.

The Villages

Staverton, Barby, Kislingbury, Gayton and Winwick, where Alice or her Boyson forebears lived, are all within the part of Northamptonshire that lies to the west of Northampton itself, some being close to the border with Warwickshire. The distribution of these villages in relation to each other can be seen in the map on the cover of this paper. It also shows the location of Hillmorton, which is just the other side of that border.

Indications of the populations of the five parishes that are in Northamptonshire can be found in the number of householders, whether liable to pay the tax or exempt, who are listed in the hearth tax for the year ending Lady Day 1675 and the number of all inhabitants that were reported by the census of 1801, 1850 and 1901.

	1674-5 hearth tax	1801 census	1851 census	1901 census
Staverton	90	437	478	302
Barby	103	597	635	450
Kislingbury	87	482	690	649
Gayton	46	267	421	436
Winwick	25	124	155	151

The distances by foot between each pair of villages to which the Boysons migrated are mentioned at the relevant points below. The longest of the distances was the 16 miles from Gayton to Winwick.

[3] The National Archives: E179/254/14.
[4] Northamptonshire hearth tax index 1673-1674.
https://www.parishchest.com/northamptonshire-hearth-tax-index-1673-1674-10546.php

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

John Boyson & Elizabeth Hynes: 5x great grandparents

The earliest reference to the Boyson family in the Staverton parish register is the marriage on 21 July 1627 of John Boyson and Elizabeth Hynes. John's christening does not appear in the Staverton parish register, so presumably he originated elsewhere. His wife was the same person as 'Elizabeth, daughter of Samuell Hyndes' who had been christened at Staverton in 1601. Her surname can be found in Staverton parish register as early as 1564 – the year when the earliest register commences.

Church of St Mary, Staverton[5]

On each occasion when John and Elizabeth had their six children christened at Staverton, the surname was spelled as 'Boilson'. Their offspring were:

	Baptised	Married	Buried
Joane	1628		
Thomas	1630	Elizabeth Flamell	1688
Elizabeth	1633/4		
John	1636		
Samuel	1639/40		
Sarah	1643		

Staverton parish register confirms that John Boylson served as a churchwarden in 1633. Elizabeth's father, Samuel Hynes, was a husbandman at Staverton when he made his will on 27 August 1638. His bequests included £6 to his daughter Elizabeth Boilson, along with a 'brass kettle and one joined stool'.[6] (see Appendix B) The will also left twenty shillings each to 'hir foure childrenn John and Thomas Joane and Elizabeth'.

'John Boilson, carpenter' was buried at Staverton on 1 September 1645. It is feasible that the following couple, who were buried there during the next few years, may have been John's parents or alternatively a brother and sister-in-law:

- Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Boilson (7 September 1646)
- Thomas Boilson, milner (6 July 1650)

It is probable that 'Widdow Boyson' who was liable to pay tax for one hearth at Staverton in 1673-4 was the former Elizabeth Hynes.

[5] For description see https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1203555?section=official-list-entry
[6] Northampton Archdeaconry Court: 3rd series, book B, number 136.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Thomas Boyson & Elizabeth Flamell: 4x great grandparents

Thomas Boyson married Elizabeth Flamell. No record has been found of the date or place of the ceremony but a quitclaim made by their grandson Thomas Boyson on 20 August 1705 provides extensive evidence of about the history of their families.

A quitclaim is a formal renunciation of a claim being made or that might be made. The one made in 1705 aimed to resolve a property issue following the death of Elizabeth (Flamell) Boyson. In it, Thomas stated that he was the son and heir of Richard Boyson late of Barby, a yeoman deceased, who was the son and heir of another Thomas Boyson late of Barby also a yeoman deceased, by his wife Elizabeth, also deceased. He also stated that Elizabeth was the only daughter and heir of Richard Flamell late of Barby, yeoman deceased.[7] The text of the quitclaim is set out in Appendix E.

Thomas and Elizabeth Boyson were both buried at Staverton, but none of their children were christened there. Their grandson Thomas Boyson described his grandfather Thomas Boyson as a yeoman late of Barby and it is probable that Thomas and Elizabeth brought up their family in that parish, which is about eight miles north of Staverton. Consistent with this idea is the 1673-4 hearth tax list which includes 'Thomas Bayson' among the 103 householders at Barby, where he was liable to pay tax on one hearth; there does not seem to have been another householder with that name or a plausible variation in Northamptonshire at the time. Unfortunately, the Barby register does not survive for the 17th or early 18th century.

On 5 June 1688, Thomas Boyson, a yeoman of Staverton, was already sick when he inscribed his mark on his will. He left one shilling to his eldest son Richard Boyson, who was then a yeoman at Barby and presumably already provided for. Legacies were given to his second son, John Boyson, to his third son, Thomas Boyson and to his youngest son, Samuel Boyson. In addition, property was left to the son Thomas and a life interest in some other property to Elizabeth, the wife of the testator. Thomas appointed his wife as executrix but provided that his neighbours William Graby and Thomas Queenby should intervene if she failed to carry out the instructions in the will. Both these men witnessed the will, along with Thomas Earle and Richard Boyson. The full text of the will is set out in Appendix C.

'Thomas Boayeson' was buried at Staverton nine days after making this will. Elizabeth Boyson proved the will at Northampton Archdeaconry Court on 29 April 1689.[8]

Elizabeth survived until 1704 and was described as a widow when she was buried at Staverton on 13 August of that year. She was already 'weake and infirme of body' when she applied her mark to her will on 28 July, less than one month beforehand. Two of her sons, Richard and John, had already died and Elizabeth bequeathed 40 shillings to be paid within seven years of her death to each to her grandsons John and Richard (children of Richard Boyson) and £4 for her grandson John (son of her son John) at the age of 21. The rest of her estate was to go to Thomas (the eldest son of her son Richard), who was appointed executor. The witnesses to the will were Jonathan Goodman, Thomas Hine and Thomas Theede. Thomas Boyson obtained probate for his grandmother's will at Northampton Archdeaconry Court on 11 October 1704.[9] See Appendix D for the full text of her will.

[7] Northamptonshire Record Office: ZB 28/6.
[8] Northampton Archdeaconry Court: 3rd series, book N, number 114.
[9] Northampton Archdeaconry Court: 3rd series, book W, number 21.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Richard Boyson & Sarah Harding: 3x great grandparents

On 11 April 1683 Richard Boyson of Barby married Sarah Harding of Hillmorton, Warwickshire at her church. Hillmorton parish register records the baptism on 17 January 1663/1664 of 'Sarah daughter of Robt Harding and of Rebecca his wyfe (borne the 5th day of January).' Sarah as the fifth of seven children in that family. As there is no record of her being buried in infancy or childhood, there is no doubt that she was the same person as Richard Boyson's wife.

There is no record in Hillmorton parish register of Richard and Sarah Boyson after their marriage, so it quite feasible that they set up home at Barby, which is about three miles to the south, across the border in Northamptonshire. Unfortunately, the Barby parish registers do not survive for the period 1573-1748 and there are no bishops transcripts for the parish dating from earlier than 1706. So, no christenings have been found of any children Richard and Sarah may have had there.

However, evidence for the composition of the Boyson family there prior to 1706 can be found in the will of Richard Boyson of Barby, which was proved at Northampton Archdeaconry Court on 10 February 1717/18. This mentioned his mother Sarah Burrowes (who had evidently remarried), his three sisters Anne Lemon, Sarah Day and Rebeccah Abbott, his brother Thomas Boyson, his brother (i.e. brother-in-law) Joseph Abbott and also his brother John Boyson, whom he appointed executor and residual legatee.[10] See Appendix F for the text of the will.

Richard's will indicates his brother Thomas Boyson was still alive in 1717/8. There is little doubt that he was the husband when 'Thomas Boyson and Mary Cattle of ye parish of Barby' were married at West Haddon on 28 August 1708. It is probable that the couple remained at Barby and that their burials are those recorded in its bishops transcript as 'Thomas Boyson' on 1 January 1737/8 and in its parish register as 'Mary Boyson aged 78' on 6 April 1764.

Neither a second marriage or burial have been definitely found for Sarah, the widow of Richard Boyson. However, it is possible that she may have been the same person as 'Sarah Burrows widow' who was buried at Daventry on 6 November 1726.

Church of St Mary, Barby[11]

[10] Northampton Archdeaconry Court: 5th series, book 10, number 174.
[11] For description see https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1076479?section=official-list-entry

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

John Boyson & Sarah Salsbury: 2x great grandparents

John Boyson of Kislingbury and Sarah Salsbury of Barby were married in her village on 29 December 1715. Kislingbury parish registers extend back to 1538 but, apart from the burial in 1705 of 'Sarah Beson', have no Boyson or similar entries earlier than 1716. This strongly indicates that John had not originated in that parish.[12]

Sarah Salsbury's parentage is not known but she may well have been one of 'my sister Mary Salsburys fore Chilldren' to whom the will of John Manley, a weaver of Barby, left the sum of £5 'to be equally divided among them as they shall come to one and twenty years of age'. The will was made on 10 August 1702 and proved on 14 October of the same year.[13]

Kislingbury is some 15 miles from Barby. However, as Boyson was an uncommon surname locally and Sarah was living at Barby at the time of the marriage, it is probable that her husband was the brother John Boyson whom Richard Boyson of Barby appointed as executor and residual legatee of his estate when he made his will just over two years later. In that case, Sarah's husband would also be a son of Richard Boyson & Sarah Harding.

John and Sarah Boyson set up home at Kislingbury, where they had these children:

Name	Baptised	Married	Buried
Richard	1716	n/a	1716
Richard [1]	1718	Elizabeth Bates 1740	1789
William	1719/20	Susannah Muckleton 1747	1776
Sarah	1722	Richard Bartlett 1749	1755
John	1725		1750/1 or 1764 [3]
Ann [2]	1727		
Mary		n/a	1731
Thomas [2]	1735		

[1] Kislingbury bishops transcript records the baptism on 26 January 1717/8 of 'Ri Boyson'. Kislingbury parish register is damaged at this point, the surviving parts of this entry being 'Rich...the sonn: of John Boyson & of Sa..... January 26th'.
[2] Only the father's name was written in the record of this baptism.
[3] See below.

'John Boyson (from Kislingbury)' was buried at Harpole, which is less than two miles north of Kislingbury, on 17 January 1750/1. It is not certain whether he was John senior or John junior, but feasible that he had been lodging with or was visiting William & Susannah Boyson at Harpole. Bad weather at that time of the year may explain why John was not taken the fairly short distance back to Kislingbury for his funeral.

By unhappy coincidence, William & Susannah's own son, who was also named John, had been buried at Harpole on 11 December 1750.

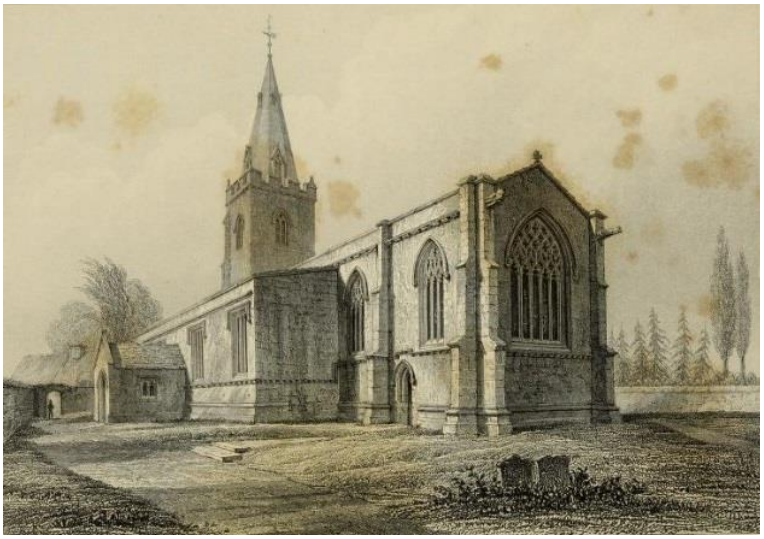
On 17 June 1760, John Boyson, a labourer, was buried at Kislingbury. The younger John Boyson would have been 25 years old in 1750/1751 and 35 years old in 1760. If he had lived until the latter year, it is probable that he would have been married by that stage.

[12] A thoroughly researched and extensively illustrated history of the village with the title 'Kislingbury: a glimpse at its past' has been written by J V Tutchener.
[13] Northampton Archdeaconry Court: 3rd series, book Wm number 286.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

However, no marriages between 1740 and 1760 of a John Boyson or with a similar name have been found in the indexes to Northamptonshire parish registers. Therefore, it is most likely that the younger John Boyson was buried at Harpole when he was still a single man in 1750/1751 and that it was his father who was buried at Kislingbury in 1760.

'Sarah Boyson, widow of John Boyson labourer', was buried at Kislingbury on 11 April 1767.



Church of St Luke, Kislingbury in 1849[14]

[14] For description see https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1041048?section=official-list-entry

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Richard Boyson & Elizabeth Bates: great grandparents

The Richard Boyson who was christened at Kislingbury in 1718 is the only one with that name who appears in the Northamptonshire Birth & Baptism Index between 1700 and 1740 (apart from his brother who was buried in infancy in 1716) or in Ancestry's index to its scans of Warwickshire parish registers. It is therefore almost certain that Richard of Kislingbury was the same person as 'Richard Byson' who married Elizabeth Bates at Gayton on 5 October 1740. Both were then living at Gayton, which is about three miles south of Kislingbury.

For the reasons set out in Appendix G, there is little doubt that Richard's wife was the same person as 'Elizabeth the daughter of Edward Bates and Mary his wife' who was baptised on 6 July 1718 at Stowe Nine Churches, some six miles from Kislingbury.

Richard and Elizabeth had these children baptised at Gayton:

Name	Baptised	Married	Buried
Mary	1740/1		
Sarah	1745		
John	1749/50		
Edward	1753	Alice Latham 1785	1804
Thomas	1760	Elizabeth Warwick 1785	

On 1 April 1775, Elizabeth Boyson of Gayton aged 56 was admitted to Northampton General Hospital, having suffered from 'Ague' for a week. Ague was the term then used for malaria or another illness involving fever and shivering. She is recorded as being discharged on 10 June of the same year 'cured'. However, her life did not continue for long; Gayton parish register records the burial of Elizabeth, wife of Richard Boyson on 15 November 1777.

Richard Boyson was described as a pauper when he was buried at Gayton on 8 December 1789.

Church of St Mary, Gayton[15]
© John Salmon, provided under CC BY-SA 2.0 licence[16]

[15] For description see https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1041071?section=official-list-entry
[16] https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/deed.en

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

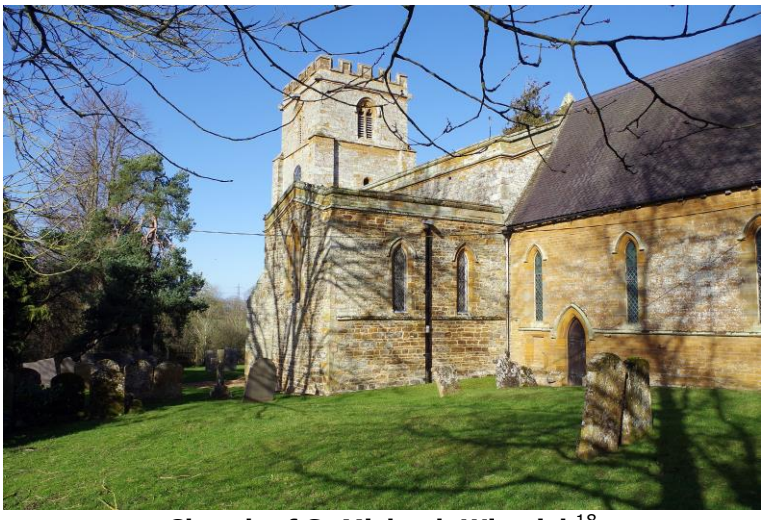
Edward Boyson & Alice Latham: grandparents

References in the Winwick parish register to members of the Boyson family all stem from Edward Byson and Alice Latham, both of the parish and both illiterate, who married at Winwick on 22 October 1785. Edward appears to have been living there at least since 1777 when he was recorded in the militia list as a servant at Winwick.[17] In order to qualify for the militia, he would have been between 18 and 45 years old. There was nothing to be gained by pretending to qualify for the militia ballot by reporting an inaccurate age, so there is no doubt that Edward was born between 1731 and 1759. Edward's burial record does not state his age, but his wife was 56 when she was buried in 1814, indicating that she was born around 1757-1758, so it is likely that Edward was born in the 1750s.

Winwick is fairly close to the borders of Northamptonshire with Warwickshire and with Leicestershire, so baptism indexes for all three counties have been consulted. The only plausible christening found for Alice Latham's husband is that of 'Edw: Boyson son of Richd & Eliz Boyson' on 28 January 1753 at Gayton, sixteen miles from Winwick.

The Particular Baptist congregation which met at Long Buckby, five miles from Winwick, admitted Edward Boyson to membership on 25 February 1781. Edward's connection with this fellowship was somewhat erratic, as he was later excluded from that congregation but in 1786 restored. Edward did not remain with the Baptists for long. In 1785, he would at that time have been obliged to marry in the Church of England in any case, but as Edward and Alice had two sons - Edward (1789) and Thomas (1791) – who were both christened at Winwick parish church, their father was evidently by then no longer a practicing Baptist.

Edward Byson was buried at Winwick on 16 September 1804. Alice followed him to the grave there on 12 August 1814, aged 56.



Church of St Michael, Winwick[18]
© Stephen McKay, provided under CC BY-SA 2.0 licence[19]

[17] *Northamptonshire Militia Lists 1777*, edited by Victor A Hatley, page 75.
https://www.northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk/pdf/volume-25/vol-25-militia-lists.pdf
[18] For description see https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229677?section=official-list-entry
[19] https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/deed.en

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Edward Boyson & Sarah Smith: uncle and aunt

Winwick parish register records the baptism on 3 September 1789 of 'Edward son of Edward & Alice Byson'.

Edward left Winwick as a young man; he was living at Hillmorton, Warwickshire (about seven miles away) when he married Sarah Smith there on 13 October 1811, both bride and groom were then resident in that parish.

Edward and Susan's children who were baptised at Hillmorton were:

Name	Baptised	Married	Buried/died*
Thomas	1819	n/a	1821
Alice	1822	John Muscutt 1846	1899*
Elizabeth	1825	n/a	1894*
Thomas	1828	Ann Halford 1857	1896*

Edward was 44 when he was buried at Hillmorton on 3 November 1833. His widow married John Butter on 12 April 1840. The 1841 census records John and Sarah Butter living in the same parish along with her son Thomas and her father Septimus Smith. Sarah Butter was 56 when she was buried at Hillmorton on 19 November 1848.

Thomas Boyson & Elizabeth Elmes: parents

Winwick parish register records the baptism on 3 July 1791 of 'Thomas son of Edward & Alice Byson'.

On 18 July 1814, Thomas married 'Elizabeth Helmes of Hillmorton' at Winwick. The 1851 census reveals that Elizabeth had been born at Thornby, whose parish register includes the baptism on 26 February 1792 of 'Elizabeth, daughter of William Elmes labourer and Elizabeth his wife'. Thomas and Elizabeth Boyson had nine children at Winwick:

Name	Baptised	Married	Died
Thomas	1815	Hannah James 1840	1865
William	1817	Ann Simmons Norton 1840	1889
Alice	1819	n/a	1819
Elizabeth	1820	n/a	1887
Alice	1823	William Crisp 1843	1856
Ann	1825	n/a	1854
Edward	1828	Sarah Crisp 1855	1883
George	1832	Mary Elms 1854	1906
John	1834	[single in 1901 census]	1905

Early in his marriage, Thomas must have experienced great embarrassment in 1815 through the activities and public execution at Northampton Racecourse of a namesake to whom he may have been fairly closely related.[20]

[20] *The execution and origins of Thomas Boyson* by Francis Howcutt.
https://archive.org/details/execution-origins-thomas-boyson

by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Although Thomas Boyson of Winwick was an agricultural labourer, he was literate and unlike his wife signed his name in the register when they married. When Thomas' death was registered, his occupation was recorded as 'farm labourer and parish clerk'.

The 1841 census shows Thomas and Elizabeth living with five of their younger children. Elsewhere in Winwick, his daughter Elizabeth was in service and his recently married son William was also to be found living in the parish and working as a farm labourer.

By 1851, four children were still living with Thomas and Elizabeth, including their daughter Elizabeth who was by then an 'invalid' aged 30. Two married sons (Thomas and William) had their own households in the parish and were accompanied by a total of seven offspring, some of whom were described as scholars.

Elizabeth (Elmes) Boyson died at Winwick of '*subacute bronchitis 2 weeks, exhaustion 1 week*' on 2 February 1858 and was buried there three days later. She and her husband are commemorated on a tombstone with the following inscription in the churchyard to the north of the chancel there - not all farm labourers have unmarked graves.

> 'In memory of Thomas Boyson, husband of Elizabeth Boyson, who died February 9th 1864 aged 72 years.
> Also Elizabeth, wife of the above, who died February 5th 1858 aged 66 years.
> I know that the Lord will maintain
> The cause of the afflicted. Ps 110 Vse 12'

The date written on the tombstone for Elizabeth's death is, in fact, the date of her burial.

At its annual meeting on 30 September 1858, a large number of prizes were awarded by the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society, including some for 'the labourer who has been and is now employed entirely in husbandry, by a member [of the Society], without intermission (illness excepted), the longest time in the same service or on the same farm'. The third prize in this category consisted of £3 and was awarded to Thomas Boyson, servant of Mr Thomas Lovell of Winwick Warren, for 44 years and 9 months servitude, which confirms that Thomas Boyson had started working there around the start of 1814.[21]

The 1861 census includes Thomas living with his son George and family. George's brothers, Thomas and William, were also still living at Winwick. By this stage, Thomas senior had 12 grandchildren in the same village. There were probably a good many more in the vicinity, including the children of his deceased daughter Mrs Alice Crisp who were then living at Crick. One can imagine that there would have been a sizeable congregation present when Thomas was finally laid to rest at Winwick on 12 February 1864. He had died there three days earlier, having suffered from influenza for two days and paralysis for one day.

[21] *Northampton Mercury*, 2 October 1858, page 3, column 3.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Thomas Boyson & Hannah James: brother & sister-in-law

Thomas was born at Winwick, where he was baptised on 30 August 1815.

Thomas Boyson of Winwick and Hannah James of Crick married at her parish church on 8 June 1840. Hannah signed her name but Thomas made his mark in the register. The couple settled at Winwick where their children were born:

Name	Baptised/born*	Married	Died
George James	1841*		
Thomas	1843	Sarah Page 1869 Caroline Aston 1879	1893
John Knight	1845*	Caroline Guest 1883	1917
William Alfred	1848	Jane Middleton 1873	1909
Charles	1850		
Sarah	1853	n/a	1875
Mary Ann	1855	John Dickens 1876	1923
Elizabeth	1857	Arthur Henry Townsend 1887	1919
James	1859	[single in 1901]	1914
Albert	1862	Kate Elizabeth Adnitt 1894	1924

All was not well for Hannah when she appeared before the magistrates at Daventry Petty Sessions on 22 June 1864, charged with destroying a quantity of plants in the garden of George Boyson, five days previously. The Bench, hearing that she was supposed to be insane ordered her to be examined. The doctor reported that 'though in a low way, she was not insane'. A witness said he had seen her between five and six o'clock in the morning pull up some leeks, parsley and one root of potatoes, which she did not take away. Mr Matthews testified that the parishioners, generally, were afraid of her and would be glad to have her sent to the Asylum. The Bench concluded that she should be committed to gaol for a month, expressing a hope that while there 'the medical attentions she would receive might prove beneficial'.[22]

Thomas died at Winwick of phthisis (tuberculosis) on 30 March 1865.

On 7 May 1879, Hannah was admitted to the County Lunatic Asylum, the symptoms of her insanity being summarised as: 'Smashed her furniture & threw the articles out of window using obscene language. Making false accusations against her neighbours – in a state of violent & incessant excitement. Says that she is the Queen on the Throne, that she took the Sacrament by herself last night. Was violent & quarrelsome to her neighbours on Saturday night, Monday and Tuesday nights appearing at her window partially naked.'[23] She was 'discharged recovered' on 29 August of the same year.[24]

In 1881 Hannah was living with her three youngest children at West Haddon. She was brought back from there for burial at Winwick on 2 March of the following year.

[22] *Northampton Mercury*, 25 June 1864, page 7 column 4.
[23] Northamptonshire Archives: NCLA/6/2/1/02 County Lunatic Asylum, Female case book no. 2, page 70.
[24] Northamptonshire Archives: NCLA/6/2/1/16 County Lunatic Asylum, Female case book volume A, pages 239 & 240.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

William Boyson & Ann Simmons Norton: brother & sister-in-law

William was born at Winwick, where he was baptised on 16 March 1817.

William Boyson and Ann Norton were both living at Winwick when they married there on 12 October 1840. William signed his name but Ann made her mark in the register. Their children were:

Name	Baptised/born*	Married	Died
Anne	1841	n/a	1896
Elizabeth	1844	n/a	1846
Louisa	1850		
Alice	1853*	John Phipps 1881	1919

Although he had been described as a labourer or servant in the various parish register and census entries, William's tombstone in Winwick churchyard reveals that for 40 years he had (like his father) also been the Parish Clerk, the full text of the inscription being:

> 'In affectionate remembrance of William Boyson who died April 17th 1889 aged 72 years for 40 years Clerk of this parish. Where I am there shall also my servant be. Also of Ann Simmons wife of the above who died April 4th 1899 aged 85 years. She hath done what she could. Also of Ann, daughter of the above who died October 31st 1896 aged 56 years. And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hands.'

Elizabeth Boyson: sister

Elizabeth was born at Winwick, where she was baptised on 15 October 1820.

The 1841 census records her as one of the four servants who were living at Winwick in the home of a farmer named John Margett. By the 1851 census, she had returned to live with her parents and was described as an invalid. On 8 September 1852, she was admitted to Northampton asylum as a pauper patient and was not discharged until 14 June 1875.[25]

The 1871 census of Northampton lunatic asylum lists the patients with their initials rather than full names. There is no doubt that Elizabeth Boyson was the pauper patient listed there as 'EB' aged 50 and born at Winwick.

On 3 October 1876, she was admitted to the County Lunatic Asylum, which was then also known as Berrywood and more recently as St Crispin hospital.[26] She remained there for the rest of her life.[27]

The extensive case records provide a detailed account of her deteriorating physical as well as mental condition. Particularly poignant are these extract from her case notes:

- 1886 Oct 28 – This old woman has taken to a little idiot girl in the Infirmary. She calls it "William" & takes all the food she can lay hands on to her, & sits with her arm round the child's neck.

[25] The National Archives: MH 94 - Lunacy Patients Admission Registers, No. 23666.
[26] Northamptonshire Archives: NCLA/6/2/1/1 County Lunatic Asylum, Female case book no. 1, pages 239 & 240.
[27] The National Archives: MH 94 - Lunacy Patients Admission Registers, No. 14239c.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

- 1887 May 7 – Yesterday at five o'clock this old woman was sitting on a sofa beside the child she was attached to when she was noticed by Nurse M E Jones who stood by to roll over as if asleep. The nurse caught her & noticing that her face was livid gave the alarm. AMO saw her within a couple of minutes & found her dead. The large veins in the right side of neck were hard & full & stood boldly out. The eyes were prominent, the face was livid & life was extinct.[28]

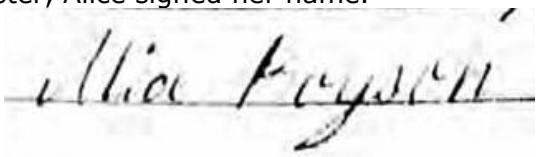
Elizabeth's death certificate states that she died of cardiac disease. Notes of the post-mortem examination which took place 21 hours after her death survive.[29]

An account of the history and records for St Crispin Hospital can be found on the website of Northamptonshire Family History Society.[30]

Alice Boyson & William Crisp

Alice was born at Winwick and baptised there on 1 June 1823.

The 1841 census recorded her living with her parents at Winwick and working as a servant but by the time of her marriage Alice had moved to Cold Ashby. It was there on 17 October 1843 that she married William Crisp, a labourer of Crick. In contrast to her husband, who made his mark in the register, Alice signed her name.



The 1851 census of Crick records William as an agricultural labourer, living with his wife and their four oldest offspring. During nearly 13 years of marriage, William and Alice produced a total of seven children, all born at Crick:

Name	Born	Married (number of offspring)	Died
William	1844	Jane Martin 1867 (6)	1927 Hillmorton
Thomas	1846	Harriett Gutteridge 1872 (8)	1913 Loughborough
Agnes	1848	George Thomas Hobson 1868 (7)	1936 Northampton
Elizabeth Ann	1849	William Henry Billson 1874 (7)	1932 Northampton
Mary Alice	1852	Charles Drage 1875 (4)	1929 Great Stoughton, Hunts.
Alice	1854	Jesse Bott 1873 (4) Arthur Burdett 1892 (1)	1938 Naseby
John	1856	n/a	1856 Crick

Alice's last pregnancy did not go well. Her infant son John was buried at Crick on 17 March 1856. Alice did not long survive him as she died at Crick on 30 April of the same year and was buried there four days later. Alice had reached the age of 32 years. The cause of her death was recorded as 'phthisis' (pulmonary tuberculosis).

More about Alice's husband and children can be found in an article which focuses on William's tragic death in 1867.[31]

[28] Northamptonshire Archives: NCLA/6/2/1/17 County Lunatic Asylum, Female case book volume B, folio 298.
[29] Northamptonshire Archives: NCLA/6/2/1/17 County Lunatic Asylum, Female case book volume B, folio 297.
[30] https://northants-fhs.org/stcrispin/
[31] *William Crisp was shot at Firetail Spinney* by Francis Howcutt.
https://archive.org/details/william-crisp-shot-firetail-spinney

by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Edward Boyson & Sarah Crisp: brother and sister-in-law

Edward was born at Winwick, where he was baptised on 18 May 1828.

On 29 May 1855, he married Sarah Crisp, a spinster of Thornby, at her church. Edward signed his name but Sarah made her mark in the register. She was about 15 years older than Edward and had already given birth to a son, Arthur, who was baptised at Thornby on 13 September 1847.

Edward and Sarah were living at Thornby when censuses were held in 1861, 1871 and 1881. They do not appear to have had any children of their own.

The death of Edward Boyson aged 55 was registered in March quarter 1883 at Northampton district.

The 1891 census recorded 'Sarah Byson', a widow aged aged 79 who had been born at Thornby, living with her son Arthur Crisp, a 47-year-old pork butcher, in a two-room dwelling which was one of four situated at Workhouse Yard, Cold Ashby.

Cold Ashby parish register records the burial on 31 March 1897 of Sarah Boyson aged 84 of 'Cold Ashby (Brixworth Workhouse)'.

George Boyson & Mary Elms: brother & sister-in-law

George was born at Winwick, where he was baptised on 22 April 1832.

George Byson and Mary Elms both stated that they lived in All Souls district when they married at the church of All Souls Langham Place, Marylebone on 11 June 1854. Both signed their names in the register. The couple were first cousins, as Mary's father – Thomas Elmes (1789-1840) – was a brother of George's mother.

George and Mary had three children:

Name	Born	Married	Died
Thomas	1855	[single in 1881]	1889
Elizabeth	1860	William Osborn 1881	1936
Louisa	1862	Walter Crofts 1890	1926

Mary Elms had been born at Thornby but their first known child Thomas was born at St Pancras, Middlesex. As quite often happened at this time, George and Mary seem to have tired of the London environment and returned to the country. By the 1861 census they were back in Winwick where both were eventually buried. The inscription on their monument in the churchyard is:

> 'In memory of George Boyson who died January 16th 1906 aged 73 years. Also of Mary his wife who died August 12th 1895 aged 65 years. Also of their son Thomas Boyson who died July 2nd 1889 aged 34 years.'

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

A newspaper report provides these details of the death of Mary, describing her husband was as 'formerly rural postman, and now repairer of the roads':

> 'Deceased, who was 65 years of age, got up in the morning as well as usual, and was about to attend to her washing, but complained of feeling rather faint. On her husband going in for his lunch she, still complaining, lay down upon the couch, and died before medical aid could be procured. On Doctor Harday arriving he said deceased had died from heart disease, from which she had suffered, and he did not think an inquest necessary.'[32]

John Boyson: brother

John was born at Winwick, where he was baptised on 14 December 1834.

The 1851 census records him living with his parents at Winwick. He appears in later censuses at these places with the occupations shown, all of which record him as unmarried:

- 1861 Buckby Mills, Long Buckby: servant in the household of William Ashby, who was a farmer of 230 acres employing six men and one boy, as well as a miller employing two millers.
- 1871 Barby Wood: waggoner in the household of John Cave, who farmed 250 acres with the help of four men and two boys.
- 1881 Survey Farm, Long Buckby: farm servant in the household of William Ashley who farmed 400 acres and employed six men, one boy.
- 1891 Long Buckby: agricultural labourer, the only person resident in a four-room house.
- 1901 Daventry workhouse: inmate.

The death of John Boyson aged 70 was registered in the March quarter of 1905 at Daventry district.

Finally

During the 1870s, almost all of the younger Boysons seem to have left Winwick. No doubt, many sought jobs in the towns or emigrated as the agricultural depression began to bite. George & Mary and William & Ann with two unmarried daughters were the only ones with the Boyson surname resident at Winwick in 1881. Of the 47 Boysons in the 1881 census index for Northamptonshire, a further nine had been born at Winwick.

[32] *Northampton Mercury*, 23 August 1895, page 8, column 1.

by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix A: Descent of Alice Boyson from John Boyson

John BOYSON married 1627 Staverton buried 1645 Staverton	**Elizabeth HYNES** baptised 1601 Staverton
Thomas BOYSON married buried 1688 Staverton	**Elizabeth FLAMELL** buried 1704 Staverton
Richard BOYSON married 1683 Hillmorton died c.1700	**Sarah HARDING** born 1663/4 Hillmorton
John BOYSON married 1715 Barby buried 1760 Kislingbury	**Sarah SALSBURY** buried 1767 Kislingbury
Richard BOYSON baptised 1717/8 Kislingbury married 1740 Gayton buried 1789 Gayton	**Elizabeth BATES** baptised 1718 Stowe Nine Churches buried 1777 Gayton
Edward BOYSON baptised 1753 Gayton married 1785 Winwick buried 1804 Winwick	**Alice LATHAM** baptised 1759 Enderby buried 1814 Winwick
Thomas BOYSON born 1791 Winwick married 1814 Winwick died 1864 Winwick	**Elizabeth ELMES** born c.1792 Thornby died 1858 Winwick
Alice BOYSON born 1823 Winwick married 1843 Cold Ashby died 1856 Crick	**William CRISP** born c.1821 Crick died 1867 Cold Ashby

by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix B: Will of Samuel Hynes, probate 1650

Background

Staverton parish register records the burial of Samuel Hynes in 1649. The precise date cannot be read but the burials are listed in date order and this one is after a burial on 16 November, so was presumably between 16 November 1649 and 24 March 1649/50.

Text of the Original Will[33]

27 June 1638

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I Samuell Hynes the elder of Starton alias Staverton in the County of Northampton husbandman beeinge being [sic] weke and sicke in bodye butt of good and perfect remembrance prayse bee to God therefore doe ordeine and make this my last will and Testament in in manner and forme followinge.

Inprimis I commend my soule by humble and hartie prayer into the hands of Almightye God who made mee trusting to bee saved by the death and meritts of Jesus Christ my Saviour and through faith in his name and bloud.

Item my will is that my body shalbee buried in the Churchyard of Starton as neare to my wives grave as may bee.

Item I give to Elizabeth Boilson my daughter six pounds to bee paied by my sonne Henrye Hynes att the yeares end after my decease. And I give to hir foure childrenn John and Thomas Joane and Elizabeth Twentye shillings a piece to be paied unto them att the same tyme to bee made by my sonne Henrye.

I give to my daughter Elizabeth one brasse kettle the middle most and one ioyne stoole.

Item I give to my daughter Joane Seaven pownds to my paied by my sonne Henry Hynes att the yeares end after my decease And to hir three children Samuell, Joane and John I give each of them twentye shillings to bee paied by my sonne Henry att the same tyme.

And I give to my daughter Joane the presse in the parlour A little brasse pann a little kettle and a pott and a Joyned stoole. A little Copper in the Parlour and a little Box to Joane hir daughter.

Item I give to my two daughters Elizabeth & Joane to be equally divided betweene them the three worsser bedsteeds.

Item I give to my brother Thomas Hynes the hovell and the tymber belonging to itt which is in the Close.

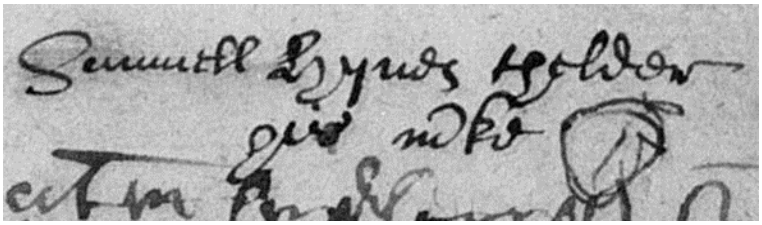
Item I give to my kinesman Samuell Hynes one ewe sheepe or a hoggrell such as I shall have at my decease to bee delivered to him by my sonn Henrye within one month after my decease.

Last of all I ordeine and make Henrye my sonne full and sole Executor of this my last will and testament And to him I give and bequeath all the rest of my goods And all my Cattell And whattsoever els belongeth to mee moveable and unmoveable And I entreate my Cosen Thomas Roberts and Thomas Watson senior of Starton to bee the Overseers of this my last will and Testament to see things performed according to my minde and as herein is expressed

[33] Northampton Archdeaconry Court, 3rd series, book B, number 136.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

And that this is my last will and Testament I wittnes by putting hereto my marke the day and yeare first Above written in the presence of
George Addames [signed] Samuell Hynes the elder his mark
Thomas Roberts [signed]



Probate (original in Latin)
Proved 20 December 1650 ……. [some of the text is illegible or missing]

by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix C: Will of Thomas Boyson, probate 1689

Background

Staverton parish register records the burial on 14 June 1688 of 'Thomas Boayson'.

Text of the Original Will[34]

In the Name of God Amen I Tho: Boyson of Staverton in the County of Northton yeaman being sicke in body but of good and perfect minde and memory praised be god doe make this my Last will & Testament in manner & forme Following

First I bequeath my Soule into the hands of Almighty God my maker hoping that through the meritorious death and passion of Jesus Christ my onely Saviour & Redeemer to receive the free full pardone and forgiveness of all my Sinnes and to obtaine eternall Life & Salvation and concerneing my body I commite itt to the earth to be buried in Christian buriall att the discretion of my Executor thereafter named and I dispose of my worldly good as followeth

Imprmis I give and bequeath unto my Eldest Sonne Richard Boyson of Barby in the County of Northton yeaman the summe of one shilling to bee payd within one yeare after my decease

Iteme I give & bequeath unto my second son John Boyson one Table & frame in the parller to have it one yeare after my decease

Iteme I give & bequeath unto my Thirde sonne Tho: Boyson one Cheast in the parler within one yeare after my decease.

Iteme I give & bequeath unto my youngest son Samuel one Table & frame within one yeare after my decease

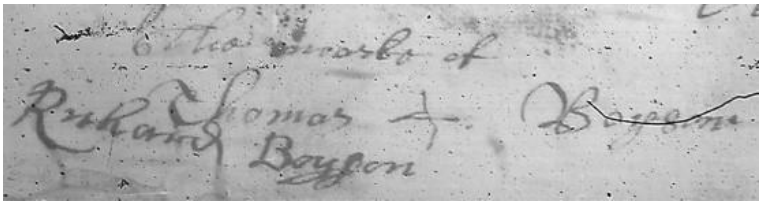
& if my said wife shall neglect the performance of this my Last will & Testament in favour of payment of all or any of the severall summes before bequeathed to all or any of my said Legaces Then my will his and I doe hereafter give and devise unto my Loveing Neighbour William Graby of Starton alias Staverton yeaman and my Loveing Neighbour Thomas Queeney of Staverto and their heires full power and Authority to the best Advantage and for the best price to Grant barbgine and sell all my Goods & hereditaments [..] Starton alias Staverton aforesaid which I hereby give and to them upon […] farlour afore said of my wife Elizabeth boyson to any person or persons whatsoever upon this trust and confidence in them reposed that they the said William Gruby and Thomas Queeney shall and out of the […] of the said Lands good tenement and hereditaments soe by them [..] well & truly pay or cause to be paieed unto my said Leagatees there […] severall Legayacies as theire said & all severall times and the […] at large & overplas if any bee unto my said wife Elizabeth Boyson her Assignes Executors or Administrators for ever all the rest of my goods Chattells and Cattells as well moveable as unmoveable my debts being paid & my funeral Expenses discharged

Item I give & bequeath unto my Sonne Thomas Boyson all that Tenement in Barby in the tenner or occupation of Robert Turner or his Assignee or Asignes and all that part […] the Messarge adioyning & one bay of barneing & close to the Message […th] their & every of theire Apurtenances to him & his heires for ever but not till after his Mothers decease

[34] Northampton Archdeaconry Court: 3rd series, book N, number 114.

by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Iteme I give & bequeath unto [..] three Sonnes Rich: Boyson John & Samuell Boyson each of them soe [,,,] a piece out of that Tenement in Barby I doe give & bequeath to my well beloved wif Elizabeth Boyson whom I doe make […]e soll executor of this my last will & testament revokeing all former wills by mee made.
In witness where of the said Tho: Boyson to this my Last will & Testament have here unto sett my hand this fifth day of June in the fourth year of the Reigne of our Sovereign Lord James the second [ov…] England etc Annoq dom 1688.
Signed sealed & published by the above named Thomas Boyson as his Last will & Testament
The marke of Thomas (x) Boyson
in the presence of
Tho. Earle [signed]; Thomas Quiney [signed]; The marke of William Gruby; Richard Boyson [signed]



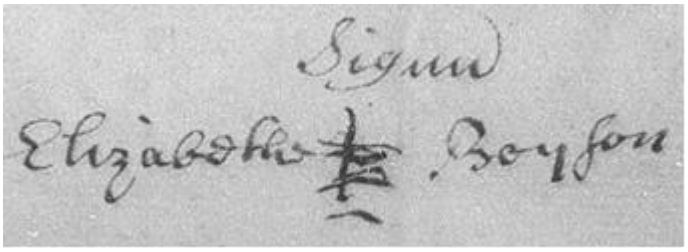
Probate (original in Latin)
Proved at Northampton Archdeaconry Court on 29 April 1689. Elizabeth Boyson, the only executrix nominated in the will, sworn.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix D: Will of Elizabeth Boyson, probate 1704

Background
Staverton parish register records the burial on 13 August 1704 of 'Widow Elizabeth Boyson'.

Text of the Original Will[35]
In the Name of God Amen I Elizabeth Boyson of Starton als Staverton in the County of Northton Widow being weake & infirme of body but of Sound & disposeing minde & memory blessed be God doe make and declare this to be my last Will & Testamt in manner & forme following.
That is to say First I bequeath my Soul into the hands of Almighty God hopeing for Salvacion thro the onely meritts of my Saviour Jesus Christ my body I committ to the earth to be decently buryed at the discretton of mine Executor hereinafter named.
Alsoe I give and devise to my two Grandsons John Boyson & Richard Boyson sons of my late son Richard Boyson deced the sume of Fourty shillings a piece to be payd them with in seven yeares next after my decease
Also I give and devise to my Granson John Boyson son of my late son John Boyson deced the sume of Four pounds to be paid him when he shall attayne the full Age of one & Twenty yeares
Alsoe all the rest residue and remainder of my Goods Chattells & personal Estate whatsoever I give and devise to my Granson Thomas Boyson (Eldest son of my sayd late son Richard Boyson) whome I doe hereby nominate constitute direct and appoint Sole Executor of this my Will hereby alsoe revokeing & making voyd All & all manner of former and other Wills by me heretofore made or pretended to be made
In witnesse whereof I the sayd Elizabeth Boyson have to this my last Will & Testament putt my hand and Seale the Eight and Twentieth day of July in the Third yeare of the raigne of our Soveraigne Lady Anne by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland Queene defender of the faith etc Annoqr Dni 1704.
Elizabeth Boyson [mark]
Signed Sealed published and declared in the presence of us:
Jonathan Goodman [signed] Thomas Hines [signed] Tho: Theede [signed]



Probate (original in Latin)
Proved at Northampton Archdeaconry Court on 11 October 1704. Thomas Boyson, the executor nominated in the will, sworn.

[35] Northampton Archdeaconry Court: 3rd series, book W, number 21.

by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix E: Quitclaim by Thomas Boyson, 1705

Cover

Boyson to James Meadowes

Thos. Boyson to James Meadows
Release of his Est. in a little Tenement at Barby
1705

Text[36]

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE to whome this present writeing Indented shall come Thomas Boyson son and heire of Richard Boyson late of Barby in the County of Northampton yeoman deceased who was son and heire of Thomas Boyson late of Barby aforesaid yeoman deceased by Elizabeth his wife also deceased who was the onely daughter and heire of Richard Flamell late of Barby aforesaid yeoman deceased send Greeting xl Know yee that the said Thomas Boyson for and in consideracion of the sume of six pounds of lawfull English money to him the said Thomas Boyson in hand paid by James Meadows of Barby aforesaid yeoman att and before the ensealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof he the said Thomas Boyson doth hereby acknowledge And thereof and of every parte and parcell thereof doth acquitt release and discharge the said James Meadows his heires Executors Administrators and Assignes and every of them forever by these presents And for diverse other good causes and valuable consideracions hereunto moveing hee the said Thomas Boyson HATH remised released and forever quitt claymed and by these presents doth for himselfe his heires Executors and Administrators remise release and forever quitt clayme unto the said James Meadows (in his full and peaceable possession and Seizin being) All the estate right tytle use interest possession benefitt property clayme and demand whatsoever both in Law and equity which he the said Thomas Boyson ever had or which he his Heires Executors Administrators and Assignes or any of them att any time or times hereafter may have or pretend to have by any ways or meanes whatsoever OF into or out of All that Tenement or Dwelling house contayneing three bayes of building formerly two bayes and the ground and soyle whereon the same now standeth with the appurtenances in Barby aforesaid heretofore the Inherytance of the said Richard Flamell Deceased and lately purchased by the said James Meadows of and from the said Elizabeth Boyson deceased TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Tenement or dwelling house and all other the premisses with the appurtenances unto the said James Meadows his heires and assignes forever SOE that neither he the said Thomas Boyson nor his heires nor any other person or persons for him for him or them or in his or their name or names right tytle or stead shall or may by any wayes or meanes hereafter have clayme challenge or demand any estate right tytle or interest of into or out of the same premisses or any parte thereof Butt from all and all manner of action and actions rights Estates tytles interest and demand whatsoever of in or to the said premisses or any parte thereof shall and will be excluded and utterly be debared forever by these presents AND the said Thomas Boyson and his heires The aforesaid Tenement or dwelling house and all other the premisses and every parte and parcell thereof with the Appurtenances unto the said James Meadows and his heires To his and their owne proper uses and behoofes forever against him the said Thomas Boyson his heires and assignes and against all and every other person and persons whatsoever shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents AND the said Thomas Boyson for himself his heires Executors and Administrators doth covenant and grant to and with the said James Meadows his heires and assignes by these presents That he the said Thomas Boyson his heires and assignes shall and will att any time or times hereafter att the reasonable request

[36] Northamptonshire Archives: ZB 28/6.

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

and att the proper cousts and charges in the Law of the said James Meadows his heires or assignes make doe and execute or cause and procure to be made done and executed all and every such further and other acts conveyances and assurances in the Law whatsoever for the further better and more perfect conveying and assureing of the said Tenement or dwelling house and premises with the appurtenances unto the said James Meadows his heires and assignes To the only proper use and behoofe of the said James Meadows and of his heires and assignes forever As the said James Meadows his heires or assignes or his or their Councell Learned in the Law shall reasonably devise or advise and require. IN WITNESSE whereof the said Thomas Boyson hath hereunto sett his hand and Seale this Twentieth day of August in the Fourth yeare of the raigne of our Soveraigne Lady Anne by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland Queene Defender of the Faith xl. And in the yeare of our Lord One thousand Seaven hundred and Five.
The marke of Thomas Boyson

Sealed and Delivered In the presence of us
Double Stampt with the six penny duty
George Bliss [signed] The mark of Joseph Abbitt Jonas Bliss [signed]

This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix F: Will of Richard Boyson, probate 1717/8

Background

Barby parish register does not survive between 1573 and 1748. Barby bishops transcript (BT) 'for the year 1717' includes 25 events in date order from 7 April to 10 January. Its BT 'for the year 1718' includes events in date order from 28 March to 26 February. This pattern confirms that each year that was covered was 'old style', running from 25 March to 24 March. Richard must have died between 8 January 1717/8 and 10 February 1717/8, so his burial probably took place at Barby but was omitted from the bishops transcript.

Text of the Original Will[37]

Jan: 8: 1717(18)

I Richard Boyson being in Perfect senses and know that all men must Dye make this my last will and Testament in Manner Following

Imprs: I resign my Soul to the Almighty God and my Body to be buried at the discretion of my Executor.

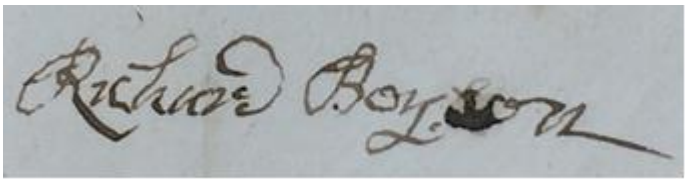
Imprs. I give Five Pounds to my Mother Sarah Burrowes & to each of my three sisters (viz) Anne Lemon Sarah Day & Rebeccah Abbott each of them Forty shillings and I give to my Brother Thomas Boyson one shilling.

I give to my Brother Joseph Abbott the Piece of Cloth which is at the Weavers (John Saulsbury).

Furthermore I give all the Household Goods Wareing Aparrell Money and whatsoever other things I am posses'd of to my Brother John Boyson and do apoynt him sole executor of this my last Will and Testament in Witness whereof I hereunto set my Hand and seale the day & date abovewritten.

[signed] Richard Boyson

Witnesses present: Joseph Tailer [signed] William Lee [signed] Thomas Breton [signed]



Probate (original in Latin)

The will of Richard Boyson late of Barby deceased was proved on 10 February 1717 [i.e. 1717/18]. Value of goods did not amount to £20.

[37] Northampton Archdeaconry Court: 5th series, book 10, number 174.

by Francis Howcutt © 2026
This work is openly licenced via CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Appendix G: Origins of Elizabeth Bates, wife of Richard Boyson

Elizabeth Bates and Richard Boyson, both then of that parish, were married at Gayton on 5 October 1740. They appear to have spent the rest of their life at Gayton, where their five children were all christened – Mary (1740/1), Sarah (1745), John (1749/50), Edward 1753 and Thomas (1760).

Elizabeth was buried at Gayton on 15 November 1777 and Richard was buried there on 8 December 1789. No ages were specified in either the parish register or bishops transcript records of these events.

Apart from the marriage in 1740, there is no record in the Gayton register of anyone with the surname Bate being baptised, married or buried there. Elizabeth was married in 1740, so it is unlikely that she would have been baptised later than 1725. Her last child was baptised in 1760, making it unlikely that her own baptism would have been earlier than 1710. Records of the baptisms of these children called Elizabeth Bate(s) during 1710-1725 have been found in Northamptonshire parish registers:

Date	Parish	Miles from Gayton	Parents	Notes
29 June 1718	Glapthorne	34	John & Elizabeth BATS	(1)
6 July 1718	Stowe Nine Churches	6	Edward & Mary BATES	(2)
26 Feb 1720/1	Wellingborough	16	Benjamin BETT	(3)
1 May 1722	Brigstock	28	Edward & Elizabeth BATES	(4)
6 Sept 1724	Brigstock	28	Edward & Elizabeth BATES	(5)
24 Oct 1725	Twywell	26	John & Mary BATES	(6)

(1) Distance and surname spelling makes this unlikely to be the 1740 bride at Gayton.
(2) By far the strongest candidate for three reasons:
- Stowe Nine Churches is the closest to Gayton
- the names of both parents of the Elizabeth Bates who was baptised at Stowe Nine Churches appear amongst those chosen for Richard & Elizabeth Boyson's children
- the date of the christening at Stowe Nine Churches was close to Richard's.

(3) Distance and surname spelling makes this unlikely to be the 1740 bride at Gayton. She was probably Elizabeth Betts of Wellingborough, who married William Nichols of St Paul's Bedford at Wellingborough in 1739.
(4) Could not be the 1740 bride, as on 21 June 1722 Elizabeth, daughter of Edward & Elizabeth Bates was buried at Brigstock.
(5) Could not be the 1740 bride, as on 18 August 1732 Elizabeth, daughter of the late Edward Bates & Elizabeth his wife was buried at Brigstock.
(6) Distance makes this unlikely to be the 1740 bride at Gayton. This person would only have been 15 at the time of that marriage.

In view of the evidence set out above, there is little doubt that Richard Boyson's wife was the Elizabeth Bates who was baptised at Stowe Nine Churches in 1718.